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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 AEC-11 H-03 OIC-04 IO-14 OMB-01

DRC-01 /164 W
---------- 116041
P R 291748Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8972
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 17221

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL: SHAPE FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW, UR
SUBJECT: MBFR: DEFENSE MINISTRY INTEREST IN SOVIET
BILATERAL COMMENTS AT VIENNA

1. EMBOFF MET NOV 29 WITH ADMIRAL STEINHAUS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEFENSE MINISTRY POLICY PLANNING STAFF, TO EXPLORE CURRENT DEFMIN VIEWS ON STATE OF PLAY IN VEINNA MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. STEINHAUS, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A FEW DAYS IN VIENNA, COMMENTED THAT DESPITE DIFFERING EAST-WEST MOTIVES AND PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPTS, THE SOVIETS SEEM TO BE TAKING THE ALLIED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT LEAST IN PRIVATE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS ON THE MARGIN OF THE NEGOTIA-TIONS.

2. STEINHAUS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE
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INSISTENCE OF SOVIET REPS,IN THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS

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WITH ALLIED REPS, ON A CLOSE AND BINDING CONNECTION IN THE TWO PHASES OF MBFR. HE NOTED THAT, DESPITE DIFFERING EAST-WEST CONCEPTS, THIS SOVIET DEMAND CORRESPONDS CLOSELY WITH THE LONG STANDING POSITION OF THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE EVEN EMPHASIZING THE OLD GERMAN DEFMIN WISH THAT MBFR II NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS AGREED IN MBFR I TALKS.

3. STEINHAUS SAID THESE MATTERS WERE BEING VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, WHOSE VIEWS WERE STILL PERCOLATING. BUT STEINHAUS ADDED THAT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT EVIDENT SOVIET INTEREST IN TIGHT LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO PHASES OF MBFR AND INDICATIONS OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY CONCERNING COMMON CEILING CONCEPT PER SE MIGHT BE EXPLOITED BY THE WEST TO GAIN EVENTUAL RUSSIAN ACCEPTANCE OF INITIAL FOCUS ON U.S./SOVIET GROUND FORCES AND THE RELATED WESTERN COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. STEINHAUS CAUTIONED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD HAVE TO BE PURSUED WITH GREAT CAUTION RE. SOVIET
MOTIVES IN FLOATING THESE IDEAS PRIVATELY IN VIENNA.
HILLENBRAND

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